



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)
CENTRAL ASIA TASK FORCE**

CENTRAL ASIA REGION – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #17, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

January 25, 2002

Note: this Situation Report updates previous Central Asia Task Force Situation Reports and Fact Sheets. New information is italicized.

BACKGROUND

Prior to September 2001, two decades of war in Afghanistan, including a decade-long Soviet occupation and ensuing civil strife, left Afghanistan impoverished and mired in an extended humanitarian crisis. Government infrastructure, including the ability to deliver the most basic health, education, and other social services, collapsed. Significant local and national resources were directed to the war effort. Severe restrictions by the Taliban, which controlled as much as 90 percent of the country, including a restriction on women working outside the home, added to the impact of poverty, particularly on the many households lacking able-bodied adult men.

Humanitarian prospects worsened sharply in Afghanistan in September 2001 due to developments both inside and outside the country. Fears of a U.S. reprisal to the attacks of September 11 triggered a population exodus from major Afghan cities, both towards other points in Afghanistan and towards the country's borders. The beginning of U.S. air strikes on October 7 caused additional movement. International staff of all relief agencies withdrew after September 11, complicating the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Even prior to September 11, there were signs that relations between the international community and the Taliban were worsening significantly. These new developments added to an existing crisis of extensive displacement stemming from civil conflict and a debilitating three-year drought.

Afghanistan: Numbers Affected

Total population (CIA Factbook)..... 26,813,057	
Refugees Since September 11, 2001 (UNHCR)	
Pakistan.....	200,000
Iran.....	Unknown
Old Caseload Refugees (UNHCR)	
Pakistan.....	2,000,000
Iran.....	1,500,000
Internally Displaced (UN/WFP)	
Since September 11, 2001.....	300,000
Old caseload	1,000,000
Refugee Returns Since January 1, 2002 (UNHCR)	
Pakistan.....	58,000
Iran.....	14,400
Internally Displaced Returns (UNHCR)	
To Kabul.....	30,000
To Shomali Plain	8,300
To northeast	117,000

Total FY 2001/2002 U.S. Government (USG) Assistance to Afghanistan \$420,643,998**

Total FY 2001/2002 USG Assistance to Tajikistan \$88,208,180

CURRENT SITUATION

On January 21 – 22, the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan (ICRAA) was held in Tokyo. The Afghan Interim Administration (AIA) participated, and the meeting was co-chaired by the United States, Japan, the European Union, and Saudi Arabia. Representatives from 61 countries and 21 international organizations attended. Donors pledged a cumulative total of \$4.5 billion, including \$1.8 billion for 2002. On January 21, Secretary of State Colin Powell announced at ICRAA that the United States would contribute \$296 million for Afghan assistance in the current fiscal year, as the first contribution to what will be a multi-year effort.

The U.N. continued to make progress towards the establishment of a council to choose a successor government to the AIA. Despite reports of inter-factional tensions and continued reports of security incidents, reports indicated that the overall security situation in Afghanistan, at least in urban areas, continued to improve. The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) moved towards establishing a mechanism to locate remote “pockets” of food insecurity. Both internally displaced person (IDP) and refugee returns continued, but new refugees continued to arrive in Pakistan.

USAID Administrator Andrew S. Natsios is currently in the region. On January 23, the Administrator met with USAID/OFDA implementing partners and U.N. Agency representatives. Relief agencies discussed first-hand perspectives regarding the security

situation in Afghanistan, current humanitarian conditions, and economic conditions.

POLITICAL/MILITARY

On January 24, the U.S. Department of the Treasury announced that it was lifting a freeze on Afghan government assets frozen in 1999. The Treasury Department's move follows the U.N. Security Council's January 18 action to remove the Afghanistan Central Bank from its list of sanctioned parties. The funds will give the AIA access to approximately \$193 million in gold and \$24 million in other assets. Adequate access to funds has been cited as critical to the new Interim Administration's authority, particularly for the payment of current and back wages to civil servants and police.

On January 25, Afghan Interim Prime Minister Hamid Karzai announced that the U.N. had completed a list of 21 people who will be responsible for organizing a Loya Jirga, a tribal grand council. The Loya Jirga will determine who will rule Afghanistan for the eighteen months following the end of the AIA's six-month term.

According to USAID/DART/Islamabad, U.N. international staff have returned to Kandahar. That now gives the U.N. a full-time presence in each of its seven regional coordinating centers in Afghanistan: Kabul, Faizabad, Herat, Bamiyan, Jalalabad, Mazar-e-Sharif, and Kandahar. At present time, more than 100 U.N. international staff members are working inside Afghanistan.

There have been new reports of inter-factional tensions in Afghanistan. In the north, fighting between Uzbek and Tajik forces were reported near Kunduz. In the south and west, a Kandahar Provincial Government spokesman announced plans to send a force against hostile fighters in Helmand allegedly backed by Iran. Meanwhile, military action against Taliban and Al Qaeda remnants reportedly continued near Kandahar, with clashes reported on January 24.

SECURITY

USAID/DART/Islamabad reported January 25 that general security in Afghanistan continued to improve, particularly in the major cities. Despite the general improvement, pockets of insecurity, particularly in rural areas and along roads between the cities, continued to exist. In particular, the Kabul to Jalalabad road and the Kabul to Kandahar road are still considered unsafe for travel by humanitarian agencies. Likewise, the Kandahar to Herat road is still considered unsafe for travel.

Reports of security incidents affecting humanitarian activities continue. In Faryab, a non-governmental organization (NGO) reported that soldiers interrupted a food distribution, demanding that they be given the commodities instead of the intended

beneficiaries. In another incident, a short gun battle occurred in Balkh province, interrupting an ongoing food distribution. NGOs reported that some commanders are taking a portion of beneficiaries' food distributions as a form of informal tax; reportedly, the accepted tax is ten percent, but in some cases the amount taken has been higher.

FOOD AID AND LOGISTICS

From January 12 through 18, WFP dispatched 16,050 MT of food into Afghanistan during the period 12 – 18 January at an average rate of 2,293 MT per day. WFP has been conducting one-time food distributions in major Afghan cities as a stabilizing and confidence-building measure. The one-time food distribution of 50-kilogram bags of wheat to 180,000 families in Kabul ended last week. A similar distribution to 56,200 families is ongoing in Herat, and additional one-time distributions are planned for Mazar-e-Sharif and Kandahar in the near future.

WFP has created the Afghan Food Security Unit (AFSU) in order to undertake rapid assessments and build up the capacity of local partners. The unit will use six helicopters, based in Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif, to conduct rapid assessments in remote pockets that may need emergency assistance. Teams will identify both food and non-food emergency needs. The AFSU will act as a short-term measure, augmenting WFP's Vulnerability Assessment Mapping (VAM) program.

With the burgeoning international presence inside Afghanistan, relief agencies are reporting that the need for humanitarian air access into Afghanistan is outstripping existing capacity. WFP, which manages the U.N. humanitarian flight program for Afghanistan that provides air access both to U.N. and NGOs, is seeking to improve the process, including by establishing flight sub-offices in Kabul, Mazar-e-Sharif, Herat, and Kandahar to complement the existing office in Islamabad. Lack of refueling capacity inside Afghanistan has been a key constraint to flight operations; the U.N. expects that planes will be able to refuel in Kabul within two weeks, but that fuel will continue to be unavailable in other areas. Afghanistan's national airline, Ariana, has resumed operations, but the airline's very limited capacity is not expected to alleviate the flight capacity shortage.

Cross-Border Food Aid Deliveries January 11 – January 18	
Dispatch Point	MT
Turkmenabad	6,732
Peshawar	4,000
Quetta	0
Termez	1,753
Mashad	1,443
Osh	494
Chabahar	1,337
Ishkashim	221
Kulyab/Dushanbe	0
Kurgan/Tyube	70
Total Cross-Border Deliveries	16,050

(From WFP 01/18/2002)

REGIONAL UPDATES

Northeastern Region. An estimated 11,596 IDPs who have remained on islands in the Pyanj River along the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border since the Taliban's capture of Taloqan in September 2000 are receiving WFP food assistance, including nearly 29 MT of assorted food commodities for 3,278 beneficiaries.

Central Region. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported January 24 that the first phase of IDP repatriation to the Shomali Plain, northeast of Kabul, has finished, with more than 8,300 families returned to their home districts. As part of the repatriation effort, relief agencies provided returnees with assistance packages, and demining organizations checked areas of return for mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). The Shomali Plains IDP population is one of Afghanistan's long-term internal displacement caseloads; some 200,000 people were forced from Shomali in fighting between Taliban and Northern Alliance forces that began in 1998 and left the area a recurring battlefield for ensuing years. Of this population, some 20,000 moved to the adjacent Panjshir Valley, while more than 15,700 sought shelter in the former Soviet Embassy compound in Kabul. It is unclear how many IDPs from the original caseload remain displaced.

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) reported January 22 that wheat distribution in Bamiyan city is ongoing, as well as a survey of houses around Bamiyan that were burned during civil conflict earlier this year. According to UNOCHA, snowfall in the central highlands has remained drastically below average, allowing main roads to remain open through the winter in a region that is traditionally rendered largely inaccessible by snowfall.

Southern region. WFP reported that the population of the IDP camp at Spin Boldak, near the southwestern Afghanistan-Pakistan Chaman border crossing, currently totals approximately 60,000 people. According to WFP, an estimated 40-50 percent of the inhabitants are drought-affected nomadic kuchis, while the rest of the population consists of war-displaced IDPs. WFP is considering plans to provide food assistance to residents of the camp for three months.

Pakistan. UNHCR reported that some 40,000 refugees from Jalozai Camp in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province (NWFP) near Peshawar have been relocated to other camps in the region since November 2001. UNHCR has estimated that the camp will be empty by the end of January; as of January 24, an estimated 10,000 refugees remained. Jalozai is a makeshift camp that has been plagued by poor conditions since Afghans displaced by drought and civil conflict began arriving in September 2000.

Even as an estimated 58,000 Afghans have spontaneously returned home from Pakistan since January 1, 2002, including 33,635 from Baluchistan and 24,672 from NWFP, significant numbers of Afghans are continuing to enter Pakistan from southern and eastern Afghanistan due to continued conflict, lawlessness, and assistance shortages, according to the UN. UNHCR reported January 23 that 16,934 Afghans have entered Pakistan through Baluchistan since January 1.

Following permission granted to UNHCR by the Government of Pakistan to relocate an estimated 13,000 Afghans waiting to enter Pakistan at the Chaman Border Crossing near the Killi Faizo transit center, UNHCR reported that as of January 21, all of the 13,000 had been registered and moved to the transit center or to a nearby camp. The group had been the subject of increasing concern due to poor conditions.

Iran. UNHCR reported January 24 that more than 14,400 Afghans have returned from Iran via the Dogharoun crossing since January 1 in on-going voluntary repatriation movements coordinated by the Iranian authorities. More than 140,000 refugees returned from Iran during 2001.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Background

On October 4, President George W. Bush announced a \$320 million assistance program for Afghanistan. Funding will support assistance to Afghans both inside and outside Afghanistan's borders, with support for food and a variety of other relief needs.

On October 4, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Christina B. Rocca redeclared a

complex humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan for FY 2002. To date, FY 2001 and FY 2002 USG humanitarian assistance for Afghans is provided by the USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, Democracy & Governance (USAID/DG), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM), Department of State's Demining Program, the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (State/INL), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The assistance includes both assistance inside Afghanistan and assistance to Afghan refugees in neighboring countries.

In Tajikistan, on October 10, 2001, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires James A. Boughner declared a disaster due to drought, and requested funds for a seed and fertilizer distribution program. USAID/OFDA responded by providing \$998,180 through the U.S. Embassy to Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere (CARE) for the purchase and distribution of winter wheat seeds and fertilizer.

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE

Personnel

USAID/OFDA currently has one Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) deployed to Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan to assess humanitarian activities and logistical capacity in each area, and in the region as a whole. *USAID/DART members are traveling into Kabul to coordinate with the humanitarian relief community and assess the humanitarian situation.*

NEW U.S. GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES

Afghanistan

The State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided \$231,248 in support of the International Rescue Committee (IRC).

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL ASIA

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
AFGHANISTAN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY FY 2002				
USAID/OFDA				
	Airlift – Turkmenistan	20,000 blankets, 100 rolls plastic sheeting, 20 MT BP-5 High Energy biscuits, 1 MT sugar		\$743,543
	Airlift – Turkmenistan	1,000 rolls of plastic sheeting for UNICEF		\$403,200
	Airlift – Islamabad	35,400 blankets		\$312,350
	Airlift – Pakistan	5 health kits		\$29,415
	Airlift – Turkmenabad	5 health kits		\$33,923
	Airlift – Uzbekistan	350,000 wheat bags		\$67,000
	Airlift – Turkmenistan	10,000 kitchen sets and 20,000 blankets		\$473,400
	Airlift – Turkmenistan	1,000 winterized tents		\$167,000
	ACTED	Food, non-food items	Northeast	\$5,500,000
	ACTED	IDP camp management	Baghlan	\$630,000
	ACTED	Livelihoods, agriculture, emergency rehab	Takhar, Baghlan, Shamali, Kabul, and Faryab.	\$750,000
	CARE	Water/sanitation, agricultural rehabilitation, shelter	All	\$3,537,035
	Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Non-Food Items for 200,000 people	Central Highlands	\$988,087
	Church World Service	Transport of non-food items		\$49,902
	Concern Worldwide	Shelter—repair 5,000 homes	Northeast	\$1,203,343

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
Concern Worldwide		Distribution of seeds & tools, rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure, income generation activities	Badakshan, Baghlan, Takhar, Bamiyan provinces	\$1,737,318
Field Support		Operational support for DARTs in Central Asia Region		\$1,339,456
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)		Seed multiplication, procurement, and distribution		\$1,095,000
FAO		Agriculture, seed multiplication		\$300,000
FAO		Security surveillance, water resource management, farm power, & spring seed distribution	All	\$2,500,000
FOCUS / Aga Khan		Seed multiplication, water supply rehabilitation, and complementary food distribution	Bamiyan, Baghlan, and Balkh	\$1,436,134
GOAL		Food, shelter, water, sanitation, winterization	Samangan and Jowzjan provinces	\$5,500,000
GOAL		Emergency agricultural, potable water and sanitation rehabilitation, and shelter repair	Samangan and Jowzjan provinces	\$1,000,000
International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA)		Seed multiplication, technical assistance for seed procurement and regulation	All	\$2,525,000
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)		Food, non-food items	All	\$2,500,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)		Food, non-food items	Badghis, Faryab, Balkh provinces	\$562,313
IOM		Distribution of charcoal for cooking and heating fuel	Herat, Kunduz, and Faryab	\$1,069,760
International Medical Corps (IMC)		Primary health care	Herat	\$735,000
IMC		Primary health care	Bamiyan, Wardak, Parwan provinces	\$3,500,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)		Food, potable water, well rehabilitation	North	\$3,650,000
IRC		Medical, public health, education & self-help programs in camps and urban settings	Balkh, Ghor	\$3,250,104
International Resource Group (IRG)		Food Augmentation Team		\$614,820
Mercy Corps		Food, water, non-food items	South, Central	\$2,000,000
Mercy Corps		Rehabilitation of wells & agriculture infrastructure, seed multiplication	Nimroz, Helmand, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Takhar, Kunduz & Baghlan provinces	\$3,000,308
UNOCHA		Coordination	All	\$2,500,000

USG AGENCY	IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	REGION	AMOUNT
UNICEF		Water, sanitation	All	\$2,500,000
UNICEF		Nutrition, health, water, sanitation	All	\$1,650,000
Save the Children (SC)/US		Nutrition	North	\$206,488
SC/US		Food, health	Central and North	\$2,000,000
SC/US		Spot reconstruction, cash-for-work, and medical clinic rehabilitation	Faryab, Sar-e-Pul	\$3,262,312
Shelter for Life		Cash-for-work road reconstruction & emergency home repair for returning IDPs	Kunduz & Takhar	\$1,294,550
World Food Program (WFP)		Food - 15,000 MT, processing, transport		\$6,000,000
WFP		Purchase of trucks for food delivery		\$5,000,000
WFP		Joint Logistics Center		\$2,000,000
WFP		Logistics support equipment and services	All	\$2,500,000
Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA				\$82,116,761
USAID/FFP				
WFP		Airlift from Quetta, Pakistan to Osh, Kyrgyzstan		\$2,000,000
WFP		72,700 MT Food commodities		\$38,555,000
Total FY 2002 USAID/FFP				\$40,555,000
USAID/OTI				
Voice of America		Radio program	All	\$187,820
IOM		HEAR Bulletin and Radios	All	\$1,500,000
UNDP		UNDP Trust Fund in support of the interim Afghan administration	All	500,000
Total FY 2002 USAID/OTI				\$2,187,820
STATE/PRM				
ICRC		Emergency Appeal		\$13,500,000
IFRC		Emergency Appeal		\$5,000,000
IOM		Emergency Appeal		\$2,000,000
IRC		Operational Support		231,248
Mercy Corps		Operational support		\$162,775
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)		Project Management Information System		\$160,000
UNOCHA		Donor Alert for Afghans Program		\$2,125,000
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)		Special Program for Afghanistan		\$600,000
WFP		Operations/Logistics Support		\$4,000,000
UNHCR		Emergency Appeal		\$30,000,000
UNICEF		Emergency Relief		\$4,000,000
Total FY 2002 State/PRM				\$61,779,023
DOD				
		Airdrop of 2,423,700 Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDRs)		\$50,897,769
Total FY 2002 DOD **				\$50,897,769
Total FY 2002 USG Assistance to Afghanistan**				\$237,536,373

TAJIKISTAN – DROUGHT FY 2002		
USAID/OFDA		
CARE	Purchase and distribution of winter wheat to 36,000 people	\$998,180
Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA.....		\$998,180
USAID/FFP		
WFP	35,000 MT wheat flour	20,000,000
Total FY 2002 USAID/FFP.....		\$20,000,000
Total FY 2002 USG Assistance to Tajikistan		\$20,998,180

FY 2001/ FY 2002 SUMMARY	
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2001*	\$183,107,625
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2002.....	\$237,536,373
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for FY 2002/2001.....	\$420,643,998
Total USG Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001	\$67,210,000
Note: FY 2001 USG assistance to Tajikistan included assistance through USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, USDA, the Department of State, and Freedom Support Act funds administered through a variety of agencies.	
Total USG Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001/2002	\$88,208,180

*Note: Detailed breakdowns of FY 2001 and FY 2002 assistance are available in previous Central Asia Region Situation Reports. USDA estimates for FY2001 donations increased by approximately \$4.5 million due to unforeseen costs for transport

**Note: DOD funding totals are estimates. The previously reported total of more than \$120 million reflects the estimated total cost of the entire four to five month airdrop operation.

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USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html